

Leicester, Mass. May 29/68.
Mond, a.m.

Dear Mr. Webb,

I have just returned from Washington - on Sat^y evg. - whither I went to see the Review of the two Armies of Gen. Meade (generally called, Grant's) and Gen. Sherman - also to see my Son Edward, - & try to recruit a little; for, after a winter of more than usually good health for me, I have had a very poor feeling Spring; but it did me no good in that respect, - the excitement, fatigue, strain upon the mind, nerves, & vision, &c. having been in fact too much for me, and I am glad of the rest & quiet of home again. Returning I find your note here of 12th, with Alfred's account of money for Lib^r - and Bank draft for £4-7-6, which I will cash & make over to Liberator, - I will send the copy of J. B.'s life to Ohio. As to the book for Richard, I hesitate a little, on acct. of the risk of his not getting it. Had I not better write to him first, & ascertain if a letter gets to him promptly, & what he thinks of the advisability of my sending a valuable book? I will gladly do it at y^r. request, - I only do not wish you to lose the book. Our P. Office carries any package of books, not exceeding 4 lbs. weight, at 4 cts. (2?) per ounce; & ordinarily without loss or detention.

But I sh^d. feel quite doubtful of its safely
reaching R. in Nevada; and this, because, so far
as I can ascertain, he never received one of
the many "Spectators" & other papers, which I
sent to him at Virginia City, & afterwards at
San Francisco. If you write again about it,
please say if this is the correct address -
Tone, ^{City,} Nye Co., Nevada? We all admire Rick's
perseverance and pluck; and most sincerely
hope he will find a good place, and be
satisfied with his success.

I found & left my son Edward well. He
is still retained in service at the Navy Depart^t
in Washington, is in quite a responsible position in
his Bureau, & seems to be trusted and liked -
whereof I am glad. My son Russell is again
engaged in business - duties in Boston; but, as he
is within about 5 months of his majority, he is
beginning to be somewhat restless in mind, and
I am feeling, at present, very uncertain as to what
may be his future occupation. My wife, and
Ada, are very well - always interested in your
letters & Alfred's. My youngest (Bessie) leaves
home this week to attend a private school on
the North River, - for the first time in her life
to be absent long from home. She is 15.

I can give you no description and no idea
of the March of the Great Armies of the Republic

thru Washington. We have no city in this country so admirably suited to such a display, and to receive such a vast body of troops - the avenues are of great width. The armies marched, to music, in what is called cadence-step (Sherman's Army marching with admirable precision & uniformity), 20 men abreast, double ranks, and as compactly as men could march with their officers. ~~On~~ each of the 2 days, they occupied six hours in passing, from 9 a.m. to after 3 p.m. - The Army of the Potomac marched less compactly than Sherman's. The latter's army was made up of 2, - viz the Army of the Tennessee, ~~under command~~ and the Army of Georgia. This the kind rep of some friends of Edward's (the Chief of his Bureau & his wife) I had a capital place to see the whole, - a good seat, which I occupied on the 2 days at least 13 hours, - looking until my brain swam with ~~the~~ moving masses of men & horses, & mules, & artillery, & ambulances, (6 to each division of troops), and splendid new banners, and - oh! what a sight - the tattered battle-flags which had gone through the war. The men appeared finely - far beyond my expectation. I had especially expected to see

Sherman's troops look battered, dingy, and
way-worn. Far otherwise; tho' bivouacking
on the ground the night before, and most of
them marching from sunrise (I even before
in some cases) in order to be in season at
place of rendezvous, they looked bright, and
stepped firmly. I was very near the principal
Stand, where were the President, his Cabinet
Generals Grant, Sherman, & many more
the Diplomatic Corps, &c. &c. Many of the Officers
Commanding Regts & Brigades would call on the
men for Cheers, as they passed that stand; and
they were uniformly given with great vigor and
good will. About 75,000 troops were reviewed
the first day, & more the next. And there were
but portions of the armies reviewed. No cavalry
were with Sherman's army, - Kilpatrick's men
being all left in North Carolina. The entire
Corps (of the Potomac Army) are at Richmond,
Petersburg, &c. The Army of the James was
there; - Indeed I was assured that what I saw
those 2 days were not over 2 fifths of the men
now in the ^{military} service of the Government. The
drawback to me was, that not a single colored
man with a musket on his shoulder was in either
army; there were great numbers of them as
pioneers, sappers & miners, with axes, picks, shovels
&c. but not one as strictly a soldier. This had

certainly an ill look. There is however this explanation - that all the men, thus marched to Washington & received there 2 days, (excepting 10,000 Cavalry of the Potomac Army) are to be discharged at once; whereas it is the intention of Government to keep the great body of the Colored Troops in the service. They have proved themselves excellent and reliable soldiers, and their commanders trust them. This is known everywhere now, & denied but by few.

I also was present for a little while in the Military Court which is trying the Conspirators in the Murder of Pres. Lincoln. The room is small, & was badly crowded. I had a distinct view of all the prisoners. We must have the result in a few days now. I scarcely see how one of them is to escape with his life, or Mrs. Surratt with hers. Most of them are a vile, disgusting-looking set. - But a much greater trial is soon to come on, - that of Jefferson Davis for High Treason, and I think no earthly power can save his life. One paper has intimated that we have not got Jefferson Davis after all, - but some one who is shamming that individual for the time being! - which, of course, nobody believes, - probably the concocter of the story beat of all. Davis has been very properly put in irons, - which he greatly resented. ^(there are some doubts as to the story, however.) He is slowly coming to suspect that he is no more than other men, after all, and has no superior rights & immunities, which the Yankees, or any body else, are "bound to respect". This will be the hardest of all lessons for him to learn.

My interest in the Standard
ask me to receive any

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I think the Govt. will be content with the for-
 as such. feature of a very few lives, of the traitors, Davis
 must not be spared. Breckinridge must not. In
 my judgment Lee should forfeit his life, so should
 every other one, plainly responsible for the starvation
 and murderous exposure of our troops, while their
 prisoners, - not one of these should live. But all
 these, Lee included, should suffer as deliberate, ^{rather} murderers, with malice prepense, than as traitors.
 Davis, Breckinridge, Magrath of S. C., Cobb of Geo.,
 Benjamin of La., should suffer for Treason. As
 you said to me - "if the Govt. does not punish these
 men how can it ever punish any one again?" - Mason and
 Ridell, could we catch them, ought to be included.

I feel disposed, with you & Alfred, to look with little respect
 on the conspiracy of the London Times & very many other
 journals & persons in England. Even the rebels can afford to despise
 such conduct. I know that I was never influenced, for a moment,
 to believe them anything else than selfish friends of the Rebellion, selfish
 as to our Country & its Govt. Their friendship for the rebels was
 precious & ^{for ulterior objects} valuable. We can better afford to be without it, than with it.

You will have seen, by Standard & Liberator, the acc.
 of our Annual Meetg. in N.Y.C. It was a painful meeting to me - and
 even more so in the retrospect. I am confident Garrison w^d. have staid
 by the Socy, until the Amend^t. became Constitutional Law, had there been unity &
 harmony among the leading members. But he has been badgered at every meeting
 for ^{near} 2 years, by a set of men & women spiteful, & bigoted, and Wendell Phillips
 (whose own words have been carefully guarded) is mainly to blame - because
 the sympathy & countenance he has given this set has magnified their self-
 importance & encouraged their petty plots. - In these circumstances G. could not
 stay, & felt the Socy's usefulness was gone. His departure left the Socy. in the hands
 of these soured ones - soured because of Fremont's defeat & the Standard's influence
 assisting that defeat. - Now Parker Pillsbury is Editor of the Standard - a man who said the
 we could hire any Irishman in the country, for two dollars a day, to do all that Abraham Lincoln executed.